

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated June 17, 2003 and wished to thank Examiner Jenna-Leigh Befumo for her assistance during our personal interview of September 15, 2003. Reconsideration and further examination of the claims is respectfully requested.

Based on our personal interview, it is our understanding that amended claim 9 overcomes the prior art of record. It is submitted that claims 10-15 and 25-27 would also be allowable because they further depend from and limit their independent claim.

As suggested by the Examiner during our interview, we have amended claims 1 and 4 to recite specific backing layers, namely "a plurality of rows of pile-shaped engaging elements to the second surface" and "a sheet of male engaging members, complementary to the pile-shaped elements, bonded to the second surface."

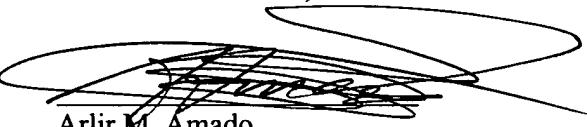
While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

Date:

Sept. 17, 2003


Arlir M. Amado
Registration No: 51,399

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.
Crystal Plaza One
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1101
Arlington, VA 22202